

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended): A method of negative acknowledgment (NAK) suppression, the method comprising the steps of:

determining that a NAK needs to be transmitted over a channel for a first time;

determining if data or other channel information currently needs to be transmitted over the channel; and

transmitting the NAK only when ~~if~~ data and other channel information does not need to be transmitted over the channel, otherwise buffering the NAK.

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

determining if a predetermined number of NAKs have been buffered; and

transmitting the NAKs only when ~~if~~ the predetermined number of NAKs have been buffered, otherwise buffering the NAK.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 2 wherein the step of transmitting the NAKs if the predetermined number of NAKs have been buffered comprises the step of transmitting the NAKs only when if the number of NAKs is equal to an amount of NAKs required to fill an over-the-air frame.

4. (currently amended): A method comprising the steps of:

determining that a NAK needs to be transmitted over a channel for a first time;

determining a number of NAKs currently buffered; and

transmitting the NAKs currently buffered along with the NAK only when if the predetermined number of NAKs have been buffered and only when data and other channel information does not need to be transmitted over the channel, otherwise buffering the NAK.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

determining if data or other channel information currently needs to be transmitted over the channel; and

transmitting the NAK only when ~~if~~ data and other channel information does not need to be transmitted over the channel, otherwise buffering the NAK.

6. (original): The method of claim 4 wherein the step of transmitting the NAKs if the predetermined number of NAKs have been buffered comprises the step of transmitting the NAKs if the number of NAKs is equal to an amount of NAKs required to fill an over-the-air frame.

7. (currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

a buffer storing NAKs; and

logic circuitry coupled to the buffer, the logic circuitry having a transmission status of a transmitter as an input and outputting instructions for a NAK generator to generate NAKs ~~based on the~~ only when a transmission status of the transmitter comprises information that no data or other channel information is currently awaiting transmission.

8. (canceled):

9. (original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the logic circuitry additionally outputs instructions for the NAK generator to generate NAKs based on a number of NAKs stored in the buffer.